Strategy – More Accurate Identification of Revoked Drivers

General Description

One problem with reducing the number of Driving While License Revoked (DWLR) offenders is the initial identification of these offenders by law enforcement officers. Law enforcement depends on the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) data to provide information regarding a subject's license status. Sometimes an offender provides inaccurate or partial identification to a law enforcement officer (LEO); this results in the creation of a new DMV record and allows the offender to avoid a charge of DWLR. Sometimes an offender shows a law enforcement officer a "valid" out-of-state license, but the offender is DWLR in North Carolina. This strategy would modify the computer information systems used by LEOs to greatly facilitate the identification of DWLR offenders.

The first modification would be to link license plate information to driver's license status information. When LEOs check the vehicle registration database, they should receive information about both the vehicle and the license status of the owner.

A second modification would be to link out-of-state and in-state information. That is, when an out-of-state license is checked, that driver's status in NC should also be automatically checked.

A third modification involves better "wildcard search functions" for checking driver's license information. This would allow offenders giving LEOs partial information to be properly identified. This function would need to include "qualifiers" on the wildcard searches to prevent such searches from overloading the system and potentially shutting it down.

Technical Attributes	
Target	Individuals who drive without a valid driver's license due to a suspension or revocation (resulting from an impaired driving conviction).
Expected Effectiveness	This strategy would increase the number of offenders being charged with DWLR. Whether it would reduce unlicensed driving or crashes is not known since it has not been tried.
Keys to Success	Most of the issues will have to be handled by Information Technology specialists at DMV or DCI. Most of these should be "behind the scenes," so that LEOs will not have to perform any extra functions or learn any new computer skills.
Potential Difficulties	Interfacing between out-of-state and in-state computer systems will not be easy. Data systems in different states can be incompatible. Increasing wildcard functions could lead to a greater number of responses to the LEO's computer. The LEO will have to sort through these extra responses to choose the proper offender.
Appropriate Measures and Data	The number of DWLR charges should be tracked to determine whether this strategy increases arrests. A special dedicated study will be necessary to determine whether this strategy reduces impaired driving or crashes by unlicensed drivers.
Associated Needs	The burden of this strategy will fall on IT personnel at DMV and DCI, and will require adequate funding
Organizational, Institutional, and Policy Issues	Nearly all issues will be technical ones (i.e., how do we get different systems to communicate with each other). There should not be any policy issues involved in this strategy; essentially this strategy makes identification of DWLR offenders by LEOs

	much easier.
Issues Affecting Implementation Time	The only time issue is how long it will take IT personnel to design some new interfaces.
Costs	Most of the cost will be borne by DMV and DCI. There will be some training cost for teaching new wildcard functions, but this can easily be integrated in bi-yearly DCI training (mandatory questions for this test would be a recommendation).
Training	Minimal training will be needed for law enforcement personnel. If additional wildcard functions are implemented, LEOs will have to be trained on these functions. Some training will be required for DMV and DCI personnel whose job functions are being modified.
Legislative Needs	No legislative authority is required.